

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 08716 100903Z
ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 L-03 H-01 IO-13 PA-01 ICA-11 CIAE-00
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R 100808Z JUL 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1333
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC
DIA WASHDC

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BANGKOK FOR JCRC REP LTCOL PAUL MATHER

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, VM, CH, US
SUBJECT: RUMORS ON MIA'S

1. A LOCAL JOURNALIST HAS INFORMED CONGENOFF THAT DURING RECENT VISIT TO BANGKOK HE WAS APPROACHED BY AMERICAN CITIZEN LARRY STARK RESIDING AT CHRISTIAN GUEST HOUSE. STARK REPORTEDLY CLAIMED TO BE FORMER VIETNAM POW CURRENTLY DOING PRIVATE INVESTIGATION OF MIA PROBLEM. ACCORDING TO JOURNALIST, STARK ALLEDGED THAT HE KNEW OF AMERICANS LIVING WITH THEIR VIETNAMESE WIVES IN A "CAMP" IN THE DANANG AREA. STARK ALSO REPORTED STORY THAT VIETNAMESE POW CAMP NEAR PRC BORDER CONTAINING AMERICAN PRISONERS WAS RAIDED BY PRC TROOPS IN JUNE 1977 AND AMERICAN POW'S WERE TAKEN TO CHINA.

2. STARK IS REPORTEDLY IN CONTACT WITH OTHER JOURNALISTS
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INCLUDING RICHARD NATIONS OF FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW.

3. CONGENOFF INFORMED JOURNALIST THAT USG INVESTIGATIONS INDICATE THAT NO AMERICANS ARE BEING HELD PRISONER IN VIETNAM AND THAT PUBLICATION OF UNSUBSTANTIATED RUMORS MAY RAISE FALSE HOPES FOR FAMILIES OF MIA'S, AND PROVIDE

BASIS FOR EXPLOITATION BY UNSCRUPULOUS PERSONS.
JOURNALIST AGREED NOT TO PUBLISH REPORT UNLESS HE DEVELOPED
CORROBORATING EVIDENCE.

4. IN VIEW OF STARK'S APPARENT FREQUENT CONTACT WITH
JOURNALISTS, ABOVE RUMORS MAY EVENTUALLY SURFACE IN THE
PRESS.

5. FOR BANGKOK: JCRC REP MAY WISH TO INTERVIEW STARK
CONCERNING ABOVE REPORT.
SHOESMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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